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THE JOURNAL
OF THE
ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MARCH, 1869.

ORDINARY MEETING, Dec. 8th, 1868.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY, F.R.S., *President, in the Chair.*

New Members.—GEO. H. POPE, Esq.; HENRY BROOKES, Esq.

The Honorary Secretary read the following paper :—

I.—On Some Flint Implements Found Associated with Roman Remains in Oxfordshire and the Isle of Thanet. By COL. A. LANE FOX, Hon. Sec.

THE object of the present communication is to lay before the Society some evidence of the Romanised Britons that I happen to have stumbled upon during last summer, the tendency of which is to prove that there must have existed, during the Roman period in this country, a class of people who employed flint tools such as we are in the habit of associating with a very early condition of human culture.

It is true that this is not a new discovery, for the presence of flint implements in connection with Roman remains has been noticed on former occasions, to which I shall refer subsequently; but our knowledge of prehistoric times is so scanty, and our deductions often rest upon so slender a basis in comparison with the magnitude of the considerations involved, that almost any evidence calculated to add to our information upon these subjects seems to be worthy of record.

We have, indeed, sufficient evidence to shew that the use of metals must have been introduced into this country before the Roman era. The discovery of numerous bronze implements in Ireland and in Denmark, countries beyond the area of Roman occupation; the gradual transition from stone to bronze observable in the Swiss Lakes, and from bronze to iron at Hallstadt; the mention of the use of iron in Britain by Julius Cæsar; the elaborately worked patterns in bronze which are attributed to the late Celtic period, and which are certainly not Roman; the very probable discovery in the Weald valley of iron smelting scoriæ in connection with British remains, by Mr. Boyd Dawkins; and, above all, the continuity of form which may be traced in the development of tools and weapons throughout the stone, bronze, and iron ages;—all bear evidence that in this country, as in other parts of Europe, the use of both bronze and iron was known to a considerable portion of the inhabitants in prehistoric times, and the almost exhaustive paper on this subject which has appeared in the Proceedings of this Society by Sir John Lubbock, leaves little to be added in confirmation of these views. But we might naturally suppose that the use of metal implements would at first be rare, and confined to the more wealthy. The researches in the tumuli abundantly prove that flint implements were used during the bronze age, and were buried with bronze weapons in the graves, and there is now good reason for supposing that they continued in use by the Britons during the Roman, and, perhaps, even during the earlier part of the Saxon era.

In April, 1868, I examined a great part of the surface of the ground which lies between Kiddington, Charlbury, and Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, the position of which may be seen on reference to Sheet No. XLV of the Ordnance Survey, scale of one inch to the mile.

The most noticeable feature of antiquity belonging to this country is the great Dyke, called the Devil's or Grimes Dyke, which forms the north-western, northern, and eastern boundary of the tract of country above-mentioned, respecting which Dyke it is necessary by way of preface to say a few words. It consists of a bank or rampart of varying size, with a ditch on the outside, and it runs somewhat in the form of a semicircle, bulging northwards, from the neighbourhood of Woodstock and Blenheim on the south-east, round to that of Charlbury on the west. Much of it has been destroyed by cultivation, but its former trace has been described by the Rev. Mr. Jordan in his *History of Enstone*, and by Dr. Warton in his *History of Kiddington*, and sufficient still remains to shew clearly the original intention of the work.

Without entering into the details of its construction further than is necessary to explain its bearing on my present subject, it may be briefly said, that throughout the whole extent of the Dyke from the strong ground in Blenheim Park, where its south-eastern, or right flank, appears to have rested, round to Dytchley Park on the north, which place derives its name from the Dyke, and on to Charlbury on the west, it everywhere follows, or originally followed, the brow of the hills on the right bank of the valley of the Glyme or its tributaries. It appears to have had in some places a double line, one of which was situated so as to command the valley to the front, on which side the foss is placed. Plot, in his *History of Oxfordshire*, supposes it to have been a Roman road, but Dr. Warton very truly observes that its curved and irregular course is sufficient to disprove that supposition; Stukely believed it to be British; and Mr. Jordan gives reasons for supposing it to be a Roman boundary. I have only to add, from personal inspection of it, that it is not merely a boundary, but without doubt a fortification, for its commanding position, its adaptation to the features of the ground, and the situation of its ditch, are points which, viewed tactically, are sufficient to determine it to be a work of defence.

Throughout its whole line, it so much resembles other dykes which I have examined in Yorkshire and elsewhere (and the study of which I may here remark by way of parenthesis is calculated to add a great deal of important information to our knowledge of the invasion and immigration of races on the east coast), that if I were to be guided by its trace alone I should be inclined to class it with those dykes, and to attribute it to the same origin, but other considerations are favourable to the view of its being a Roman earthwork.

These considerations are: firstly, that it covers a portion of the Akeman Street, which runs across the country in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction, passing along the rear of this work in such a manner as to be defended by it from a northerly attack; and secondly, that between Akeman Street and the Dyke, and within the area defended by the Dyke, there are traces of several Roman villas or other Roman remains, viz.: one on Callow Hill, about a mile to the north of Akeman Street; another near Devil's Pool, a mile to the north-west of Callow Hill; and two more close together, further to the north-west, within the area of Dytchley Park; to which may be added (as probably belonging to the same settlement, though on the other side of Akeman Street to the south), the Roman villa at Stonesfield, or more properly at North Leigh, containing, as is well-known, one of the best examples of a Roman Mosaic pavement that has been discovered in this country.*

These circumstances favour the supposition that the Dyke may have been thrown up by the Romans to defend a Roman settlement established in this place in connection with the great road, and to secure the communication of the inhabitants with the road.

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* Since writing the above, I have examined the course of another dyke, of smaller dimensions, which runs from the neighbourhood of Callow Hill, straight up to one of the sites above mentioned, in Dytchley Park, which is strewed with Roman pottery, and from thence westward into Cornbury Park. The position of the pottery-strewed site, with reference to the dyke, is such as to leave no reasonable doubt of their having been connected.

It is in connection with the sites of these Roman remains, within the area of the intrenchment, that I discovered the flint arrow-heads and other vestiges of the fabrication of flint implements that are represented in the annexed plate.*

On Callow Hill there are the remains of a rectangular enclosure thickly strewed with Roman tiles and pottery, amongst which I picked up a piece of Samian pottery representing in relief a satyr and two women dancing, a stone spindle whorl, several fragments of scored tile, and with them five flints, consisting of two flakes shewing the bulb of percussion on the flat side, one ball about an inch in diameter chipped all round, fig. 1, and two well-formed scrapers represented in figs. 2 and 3.

Now, in order to appreciate the value of the evidence afforded by these flints, it must be understood that the district in question, forming part of the great oolite formation, contains no flints. The nearest point from which flints could be obtained is from the chalk country, nineteen miles to the south. There are, indeed, flints in the alluvium in the bottoms of some of the valleys nearer than that, but they are so different in appearance from those exhibited to the meeting and represented in the figures, that there can be no difficulty in distinguishing them. Apart, therefore, from the evidence afforded by the bulb of percussion, the peculiar decomposition of the surface, the careful chipping of the scrapers, and other indications of design, we may be sure that wherever flints of any kind are found in this district in places that are not covered with the alluvium, they must have been imported from a distance, and may, therefore, be regarded as the work of hands.

I examined carefully every yard of the surface of several fields adjoining the Roman structure upon Callow Hill, and I also examined the neighbourhood of the Dyke which here runs within half-a-mile to the east, but I nowhere discovered the smallest fragment of flint, with the exception of the implements above-mentioned, mixed with innumerable fragments of Roman pottery in this place. We have, therefore, I think, very strong presumptive evidence for associating the flints and the pottery together in point of time.

I next examined one of the Roman sites on Lord Dillon's property, in the neighbourhood of Devil's Pool. Having removed the soil and the fragments of pottery which strewed the surface, I came upon part of a Roman floor composed of concrete mixed with small fragments of broken tile, twenty feet in length by twelve feet. Immediately to the north, adjoining this structure, about an acre of ground was covered with the *débris* of flint manufacture, samples of which were exhibited to the Society. They consist of numerous small flakes (figs. 5 and 6); several small balls, similar to that found upon Callow Hill, the object of which is doubtful, but which appear to be something more than mere nuclei from which the flakes have been struck off; several small cores; one worked flint (fig. 4), two inches in length, and about half-an-inch thick, rounded, and shewing marks of abrasion at the ends, similar in form to flints which are found in the Yorkshire Wolds and elsewhere, and which are believed to have been used as tools in the process of flaking and fabricating the flints; two fragments of scrapers, one of which is represented in fig. 7, and several irregularly formed flints chipped to a bevel on one side; one leaf-shaped arrow-head (fig. 8); and one well-formed barbed arrow-head (fig. 9), the former of which was an inch, and the latter about half-an-inch in length, both carefully chipped and worked on all sides.

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* All the figures represented in the plate are half-size linear.

All these several types of implements are of the kind usually found upon the surface, especially in flint districts, both in this country and in Ireland, and are often associated with implements of bronze, but they have not, I believe, been previously discovered in this part of Oxfordshire. The arrow-heads, more especially, are generally taken to represent an advanced period in the stone age and the transition from stone to bronze. Four distinct types of arrow-head are usually found in all countries,—the leaf-shaped, the lozenge-shaped, the barbed, and the triangular or shark's tooth-shaped. These four types, with the intermediate forms connecting one type with another, are found in all parts of the world in which flint or chert arrow-heads, either have been, or still continue to be used at the present time, including nearly all parts of Europe, North and South America, and Japan.

The same considerations which led me to associate the flints found upon Callow Hill with the Roman pottery there, also led me to connect the flints found near the Devil's Pool with the Roman pavement; for here, as at Callow Hill, I examined a considerable tract of country to the north, west, and south of the area which is contiguous to the pavement, without discovering a single flint. I think, therefore, that we may either suppose the whole to have belonged to the Romanised Britons; or, if the pavement is to be regarded as part of a Roman villa, we may, perhaps, be allowed to conjecture that the flints, occupying as they do a compact area in close contiguity to it, may mark the residences of British slaves, who dwelt in huts of wicker, or some other perishable material, in the immediate vicinity of their master's house. At the same time, however, it is necessary to bear in mind that as all these remains were found on the surface, there is always a possibility of their having belonged to different periods, notwithstanding the circumstances which in this case appear to warrant us in associating them together.

Some further confirmation of the existence of Roman remains contemporaneously with structures of an earlier character in this neighbourhood, may perhaps be derived from the consideration of circumstances connected with the cromlech or hoar stone at Enstone. This cromlech consists of five large stones, three of which are upright, forming three sides of a cist, and two lay flat on the ground adjoining. Mr. Jordan, the historian of Enstone, informs us, on the authority of Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., who dug beneath this monument some years ago, that all the fragments of pottery discovered there were of Roman, or Romano-British manufacture. Although it is of course possible that such pottery may have been deposited by the despoilers of this sepulchre during the Roman period, yet the position of the pottery, which is stated to have been in the ground beneath the stones, is favourable to its having belonged to the time when it was used as a place of interment, assembly, or public worship.

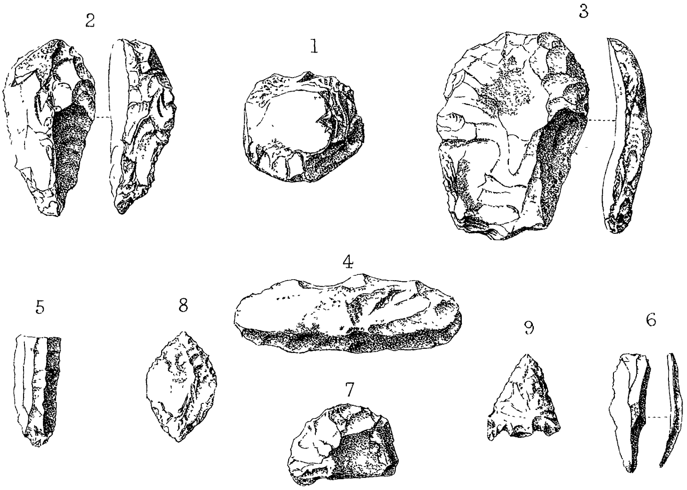
I found no flints in the neighbourhood of this cromlech, which now stands in a fir plantation adjoining the road; but in the vicinity of a similar one at Rollerich, near Chipping Norton, called the Five Knights, I found several flakes upon the surface. From information I obtained from a shepherd close by, I have reason to believe the flints are confined to the field in which the cromlech stands.

It now remains for me to describe some relics of a similar nature, which I obtained from the Isle of Thanet. The tract of country which I examined in September, 1868, extends from about a mile north of Margate to Broadstairs and Ramsgate, and to a distance of a mile or two inland from those places; the tract of country in question may be seen on reference to sheet No. 3 of the Ordnance Survey. The formation is chalk, and the soil is therefore covered with flint stones. *Flinting*, consequently, has to be carried on under conditions entirely the opposite of those met with in Oxfordshire. From the time of the Romans up to the present, flints have been used here in the construction of walls, and sharp flakes set into the tops of them here answer the purpose which in other parts of the country is served by fragments of glass. Nevertheless, there is no real difficulty in detecting the ancient from the modern flakes; dark flakes with a dull surface must be rejected as modern, those of ancient date are of a light blue colour on their fractured surfaces. I found three plots of ground within the area above mentioned, upon which the fabrication of flints had been carried on. One near the edge of the cliff between Broadstairs and the North Foreland lighthouse, another about two hundred yards to the west of the lighthouse inland, and a third in a field to the west of the church-yard at St. Peter's. Similar plots of flint *débris* are found upon the Yorkshire wolds. Between Margate and Kingsgate, although I walked over the ground very carefully, I did not find more than a couple of flakes, nor could I find any trace of the fabrication of flint implements beyond St. Peter's to the south and west. All the flints exhibited to the Society are from the three spots above named.

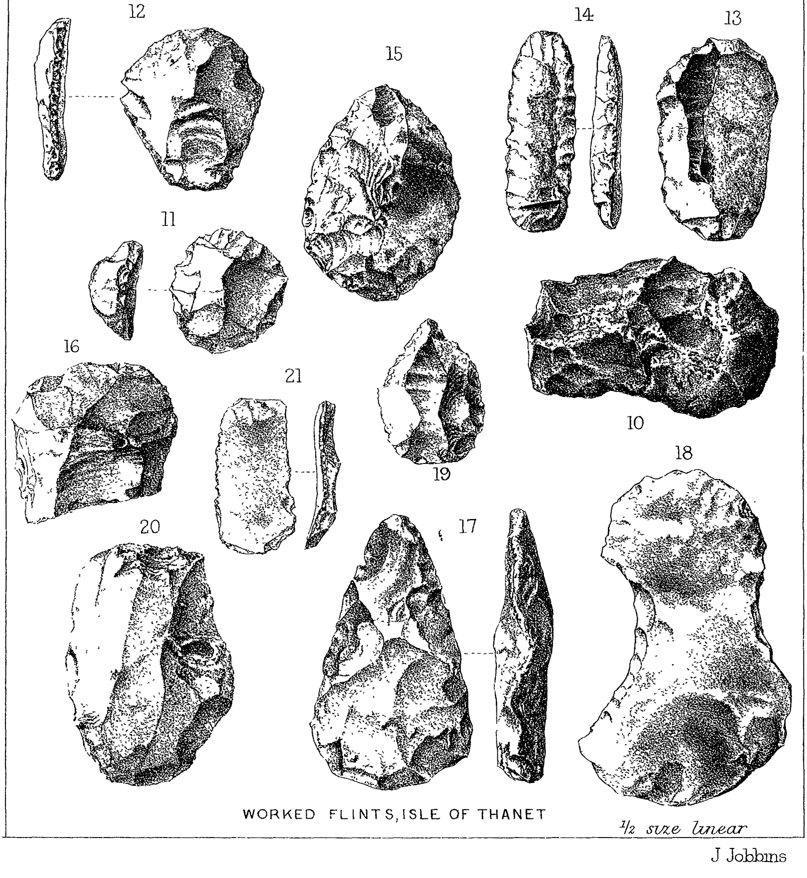
The flints found upon the surface in these places may be classified as follows: 1. Flakes: although a good many flakes were found, few of them were long or well formed; this is to be wondered at, considering that good large flints for the purpose are obtainable in the chalk. 2. Cores from which the flakes had been struck off: these were in great abundance, of the usual kind, but of small size generally. 3. Flint balls: similar balls are found in the Yorkshire wolds and elsewhere; their object appears doubtful, it is often difficult to distinguish a flint ball from a mere core that has been thrown away after several flakes had been taken off from it; some of these, however, appear evidently to have been designed. 4. Three or four flints from two to three inches long, and from one and a-half to two inches thick, rounded at the ends: these might perhaps have been intended as hammers (one of these is represented in fig. 10). 5. Flint discs (fig. 11), flat on one side and bevelled all round on the other: I picked up two of these. 6. Scrapers: two good specimens and several imperfectly formed (figs. 12 and 13). 7. Flint knives: one good specimen of this class is represented in fig. 14; it is an outside flake, two inches long, carefully chipped all round on the convex side, several others are more or less chipped on one or both edges. 8. Spear head: of this class I obtained one very good specimen (fig. 15) in the field near St. Peter's; it is two inches long and one and a-half broad, leaf shaped, well chipped on both faces. I found several flints which appeared to have been rudely worked to a point; these possibly may have been unfinished spear heads, they however are extremely rough. 9. Drills: I found two flints which appeared to have served the purpose of drills, but they are not good specimens. 10. Some of these flints were chipped to an edge, apparently to be used as chisels or axes (fig. 16). Besides the above, there were a great many flints of a nondescript character, showing marks of secondary chipping, but which do not admit of being definitively classed. I have little doubt that the majority of the tools used for different purposes were of this sort. When it is considered that the flint breaks off at every stroke when employed in scraping wood or bone, it is very unlikely that the fabricators should have expended much labour on dressing their ordinary tools into symmetrical forms, which must inevitably have been destroyed before the implement had been in use many minutes. No doubt each rough flake was used for the purpose for which it was best adapted, and was employed either in the hand without any handle, or set into sticks, in the manner that is common in savage countries to this day. Amongst these flints of a nondescript character were several that appeared to have had a notch chipped out of them of a semicircular concave form; these may perhaps have been used to trim the rounded shafts of arrows or other implements of wood that required to have a convex form given to them, but these are liable to be mistaken for the strike-lights of modern times. It is remarkable that I found no arrow head amongst the flint *débris* in this country, and all the flints found here on the surface were of a very rough description.

During the time that I was staying in this neighbourhood some labourers, digging for brick earth between St. Peter's and Reading Street, came upon the top of a large pit cut in the chalk. As several fragments of ancient pottery had been turned up above this pit, I determined to have it dug out. It appears to have been of oval form, the diameters being thirty and forty feet respectively at the top, the sides sloping at an angle of 40°, and converging towards the bottom, the greatest depth of which beneath the surface was eleven feet. An opening, and a kind of path down into it, was traced in the north side. There was a small bank of chalk round the margin of the pit. To the west, a mound of chalk appeared to have been formed by the material excavated from the pit during its first formation. The pit had since been filled up with brick earth, without any mixture of other earth or mould, and brick earth covered the mound and top of the pit to a thickness of from one to three feet over the highest part of the chalk mound, above which, on the surface, there was six inches of vegetable mould. There was no indication of the pit upon the surface, except that the grass always grew thicker over it; and, but for the circumstance of the place having been used for obtaining brick earth, the existence of the pit would never have been noticed. It would appear from this, that, at some former period, the top of the mound and pit must have been levelled down and covered over, in order to make the field available for agricultural purposes; but, before this, circumstances hereafter mentioned, will shew the pit must have been filled up with brick earth. This is the only way that I can account for the pit having been covered over in such a manner as to obliterate all trace of it upon the surface, as there is no fall in the ground adjoining sufficient to have caused it to become silted up, the surrounding country may be said to be on a dead level or nearly so, and the part covering the mound and pit was on the same level as the rest. I was unable to excavate more than the northern half of the pit, the remainder being required for the erection of a shed. The pit, as I have said, was filled with brick earth; but its softness, and the mixture of a number of small lumps of chalk, shewed it to be disturbed earth, differing in this respect from the natural deposit of brick earth which lay around it on the top of the chalk, to a thickness averaging from three to four feet. The contents of the pit were as follows:—Two lumps of baked clay from two to three inches thick at six feet from the surface—these balls appeared to have been formed by squeezing them in the hand, and shewed marks of the impress of the fingers; a cluster of about thirty small pellets, averaging an inch in diameter, the material and use of which I have not been able to ascertain—they were at a depth of six feet nine inches from the surface, exactly over what appeared to be the centre of the pit; an iron nail at seven feet and a half; a very well-formed flint spear-head (fig. 17) at the same depth, of nearly triangular form, two inches and a half long, and one and a half broad at the base, about half an inch thick at the base, and tapering towards the point. One of the flints obtained from this pit (fig. 18) was chipped in concave form on both sides, and shewed some marks of secondary chipping near the bulb of percussion. Fig. 19 might possibly represent the first rough outline of an arrow-head, if so, it is the only specimen of the kind I found in the Isle of Thanet. Fig. 20 appears to have been intended for a scraper, but it is not a good specimen. A few fragments of charcoal were found at seven feet. Flint flakes, of which fig. 21 is a good specimen, and cores, were found interspersed with the brick earth all through the pit, but chiefly near the bottom; all the flints shewed the bulb of percussion, or facets, or some other indication of artificial fracture, except at the bottom, where there were several large unchipped flint stones. The flint was of a very fine transparent quality, and of the kind best adapted for flint implements. All the flakes were sharp at the edge, cutting the skin like broken glass, differing in this respect from those found on the surface, and shewing that they must have been covered with earth soon after having been flaked off, and the edges by that means preserved. Amongst them were several flints shewing marks of secondary chipping at the edges; but, with the exception of the spear-head (fig. 17), no symmetrically-formed tools. A few of the flints shewed signs of fire. Animal remains were found at various depths, but chiefly near the bottom. All the bones were split and fractured. Mr. William Davies, of the British Museum, has been kind enough to identify them for me. They belong to the following domesticated animals:—Bones and teeth of the goat, *Capra hircus;* the humerus, tibia, metacarpus, lower jaw, portion of pelvis, and eleven teeth of the *Bos longifrons,* all fractured; a fractured right humerus, and part of the shed antler of the red deer, *Cervus elaphus;* portions of the humerus, radius, pelvis, metatarsus, astragalus, tibia, hind foot, and several teeth of the horse, *Equus caballus;* the symphysis, lower jaw, femur and teeth of the pig, *Sus scrofa;* and the skull and lower jaw of a dog, *Canis familiaris.* It is worthy of notice, and we learn from it, how much information may be derived, in these investigations, from a careful examination of the animal remains by a competent anatomist, that Mr. Davies, in his examination of these bones, observed that they all belonged to one animal of each kind, viz.—one bos longifrons, one horse, and one goat, and further, that the bones both of the horse and goat, belonged to the right side of the animal, with the exception of only two small bones of the horse belonging to the left side. Now, as these bones were not deposited in the pit in their natural sequence, but were, without exception, fractured and split along as if for marrow, it follows almost as a matter of certainty, that they must be the remains of a feast, in which a considerable number of persons must have taken part, and that the animals were not buried entire, nor were the bones chucked into the pit at different times, which latter is proved by the fact of the bones belonging to one animal of each kind. The shells found in the pit were the following—limpet, *Patella vulgaris,* in considerable numbers; periwinkle, *Littorina littorea,* a few; mussel, a few; snail, *Helix nemorales,* and *Helix aspersa,* in great abundance, evidently used as an article of food; whelks, *Buccinum undatum,* two or three. Lastly, the whole of the pottery found in the pit was of Roman manufacture: it consisted of small fragments from an inch to two inches in length and breadth, interspersed throughout the pit from top to bottom with the bones and flints in such a manner as to leave no doubt that both the flints and the animal remains must have been deposited at the same time as the pottery.

The pottery was all of the kind that was manufactured by the Romans in this country, and chiefly in the Upchurch Marshes, on the banks of the Medway; no fragments of Samian ware were found in the pit.



WORKED FLINTS, OXFORDSHIRE



WORKED FLINTS, ISLE OF THANET

½ size linear

J Jobbins

With respect to the purpose for which the pit was constructed, it is to be regretted that I was unable, for the reason above mentioned, to dig out the whole of it. The evidence derived from the animal remains is favourable to the supposition of its having been a place of burial associated with the usual burial feast; but, although the centre was dug out, there was not the slightest trace of a human interment, or of any urn, or burnt bones. The character of the flint *débris* leads me to think that the pit must have been sunk in the chalk for the purpose of obtaining flint for the construction of weapons, and that the implements must have been made on the spot and then carried off, to be used elsewhere, which would account for so few worked flints having been found in the pit; had it not been for the single spear-head and one or two worked flints that were found, no evidence would exist to show that the flints were not chipped for wall-building, or for some other purpose for which this material may have been commonly used by the Romans; but the character of the implements is quite conclusive, and leaves little doubt that it was for that purpose the flints were worked.

At what time, and for what object, the pit was filled up again with brick earth, and not with the material excavated from it, appears to be less clearly determinable. Somewhat similar pits to this have been noticed in other parts of Kent, at Faversham, Aylesford, Crayford, Dartford, and Tilbury. Those at Aylesford are described as being filled up to the top with flints; and, from information I obtained from the workmen that I employed, I have reason to believe they are also to be found in other parts of the Isle of Thanet.

Murray's *Handbook* informs us that, "until the beginning of last century, owing partly to its being difficult of access, and to its laying off the main roads, Thanet was in nearly as wild a waste as the remotest parts of Cornwall." We know that in Roman times it was entirely isolated, and that the Roman galleys sailed between it and the main land. Perhaps, therefore, it may have been owing to this circumstance that the inhabitants of the island, although situated so near to the great thoroughfare of nations as to be within sight of the Roman stations at Rutupiæ and Regulbium, may, nevertheless, have been in so barbarous a condition, as to have retained the use of their primitive flint weapons during the Roman times.

Another well authenticated instance of the occurrence of chipped flints in connection with Roman remains, occurs at the camp at Hardham in Sussex. Mr. Boyd Dawkins there discovered several Romano-British graves, in which chipped flints were intimately associated with pottery of the Roman age, and he mentions two other similar cases that had come under his notice, one at the camp at Worle Hill, near Weston-super-Mare, and another at Gergovia in Auvergne.

In conclusion, it may be well that I should state briefly the degree of weight which I attach to the several facts mentioned in this paper, as evidence of the use of flint implements during the Roman era. In the case of the flints found on the surface in Oxfordshire, I consider the connection highly probable, if not actually proved. The connection, in point of time, of the flint implements and flakes with the Roman pottery found in the pit near St. Peter's appears to me to be sufficiently proved. The flint implements found on the surface in the Isle of Thanet may be of an earlier date, but their resemblance in character to those found in the pit renders it highly probable that they also may have been used in the time of the Romans. I can hardly hope that the details which I have recorded will be considered of very great interest in themselves; they must, however, be regarded as a contribution towards a general survey of the prehistoric archæology of the country, and, as such, I trust they may not be considered unworthy of the notice of the Society.

A discussion followed, in which Mr. Evans, Mr. Black, and Col. Lane Fox took part.

The Honorary Secretary then read the following paper ;—

II.—The Westerly Drifting of the Nomads from the Fifth to the Nineteenth Century. By H. H. Howorth, Esq.

Part I. A.D. 1218-1868.

It may be perversity or it may be presumption in one so unimportant as myself taking heterodox views of the foundations upon which others have built; whatever it be, I confess that I am not contented with the method of inquiry becoming popular among ethnologists. I hold it to be a vicious method in any science which is not purely empirical, to attempt to approach the known from the unknown. To start an inquiry at the zero of perfect ignorance, and to weave fantastic fables out of a mass of disjointed and confused facts; and then to dogmatise with more than philosophic unction, as if the erections were riveted together with sober truth instead of being a mere toy; a house of cards. In charging much of modern ethnological research with such grave trifling, I do not hide from myself either the fascination of the amusement or the ease with which it may be followed. I deny its scientific worth. But, to leave generalities, I consider that prehistoric times and their doings can only be safely approached from historic times. That if we ignore the solid ground which has been well mapped out by former in-